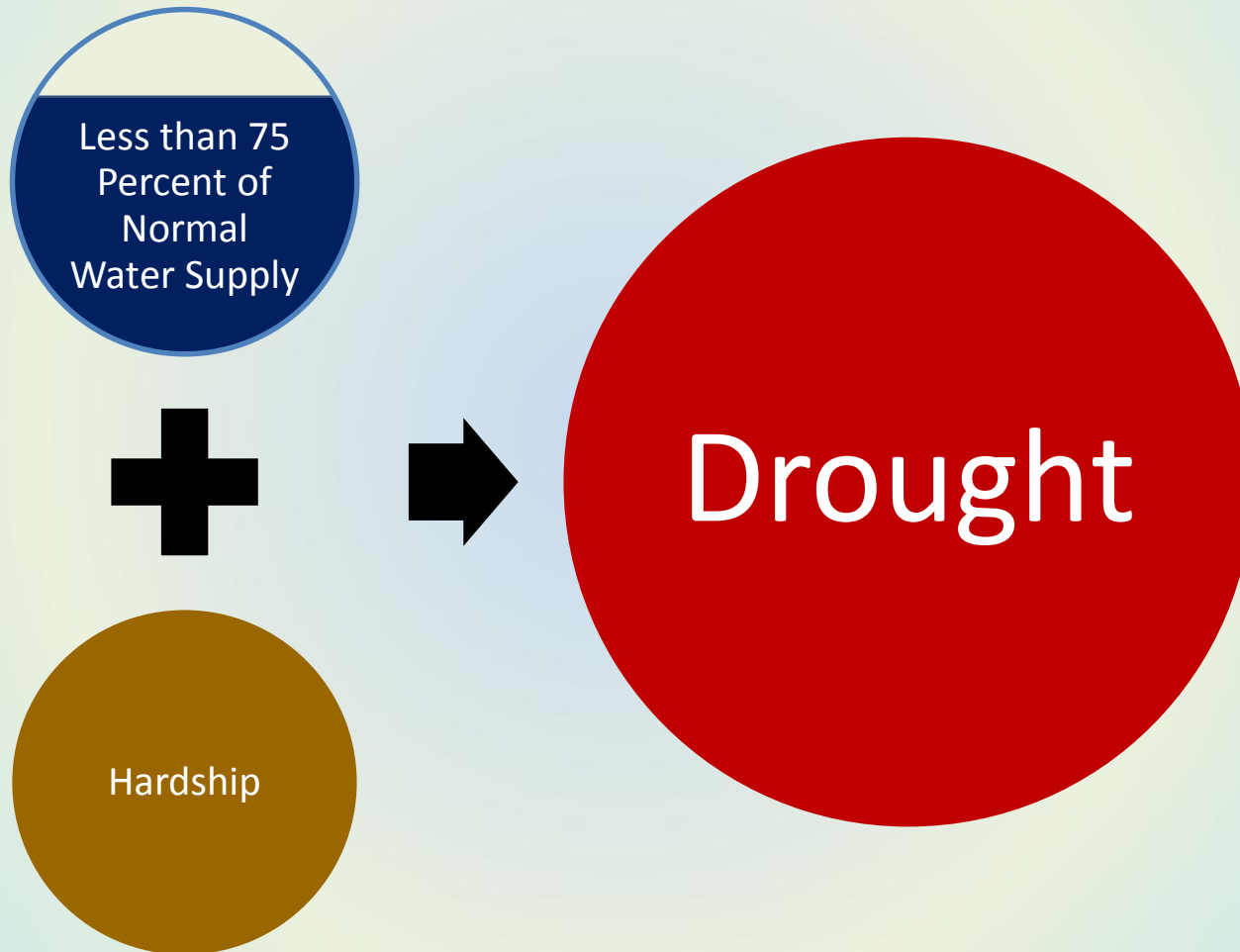


Department of Ecology Drought Declaration and Water Supply Update

April 1, 2015



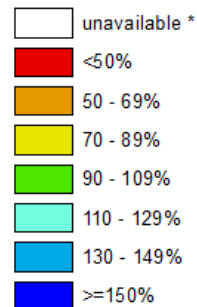
Washington State's Drought Trigger



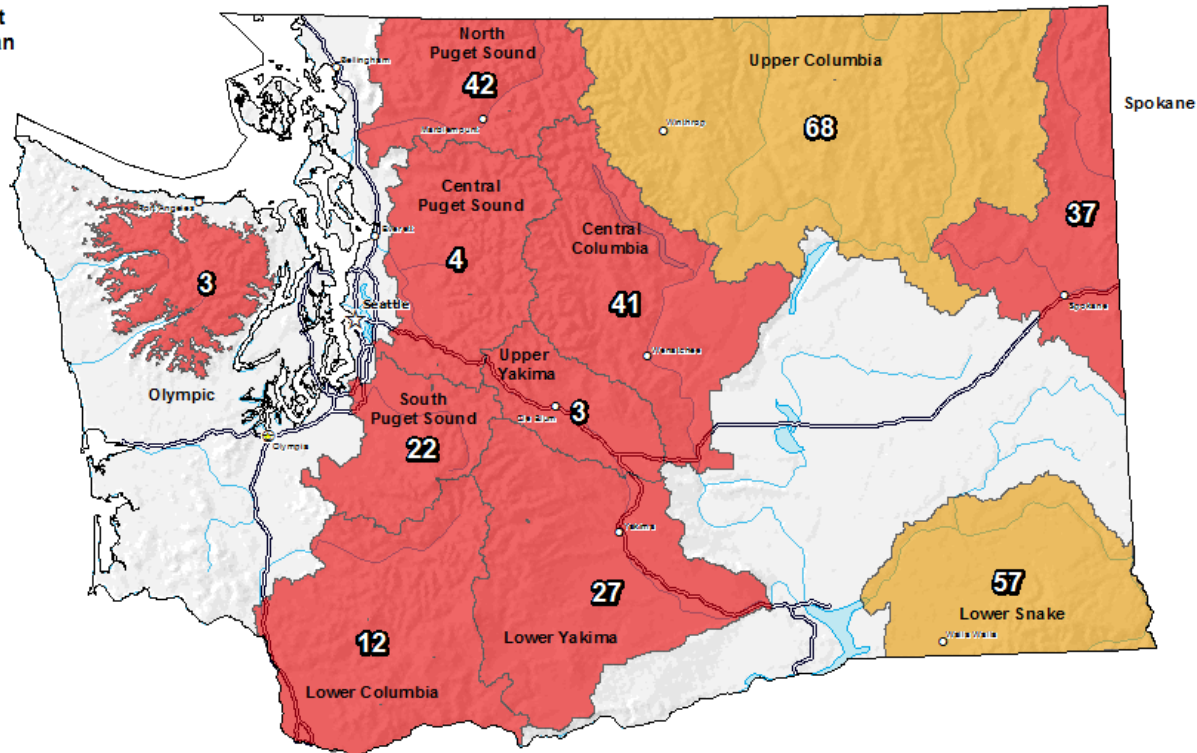
Washington SNOTEL Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) % of Normal

Mar 31, 2015

Current Snow Water
Equivalent (SWE)
Basin-wide Percent
of 1981-2010 Median



* Data unavailable at time of posting or measurement is not representative at this time of year



*Provisional Data
Subject to Revision*



The snow water equivalent percent of normal represents the current snow water equivalent found at selected SNOTEL sites in or near the basin compared to the average value for those sites on this day. Data based on the first reading of the day (typically 00:00).



Prepared by:
USDA/NRCS National Water and Climate Center
Portland, Oregon
<http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov>

Statewide: 22 Percent of Normal

Factors to Evaluate Hardship

Groundwater users (snowpack drought)

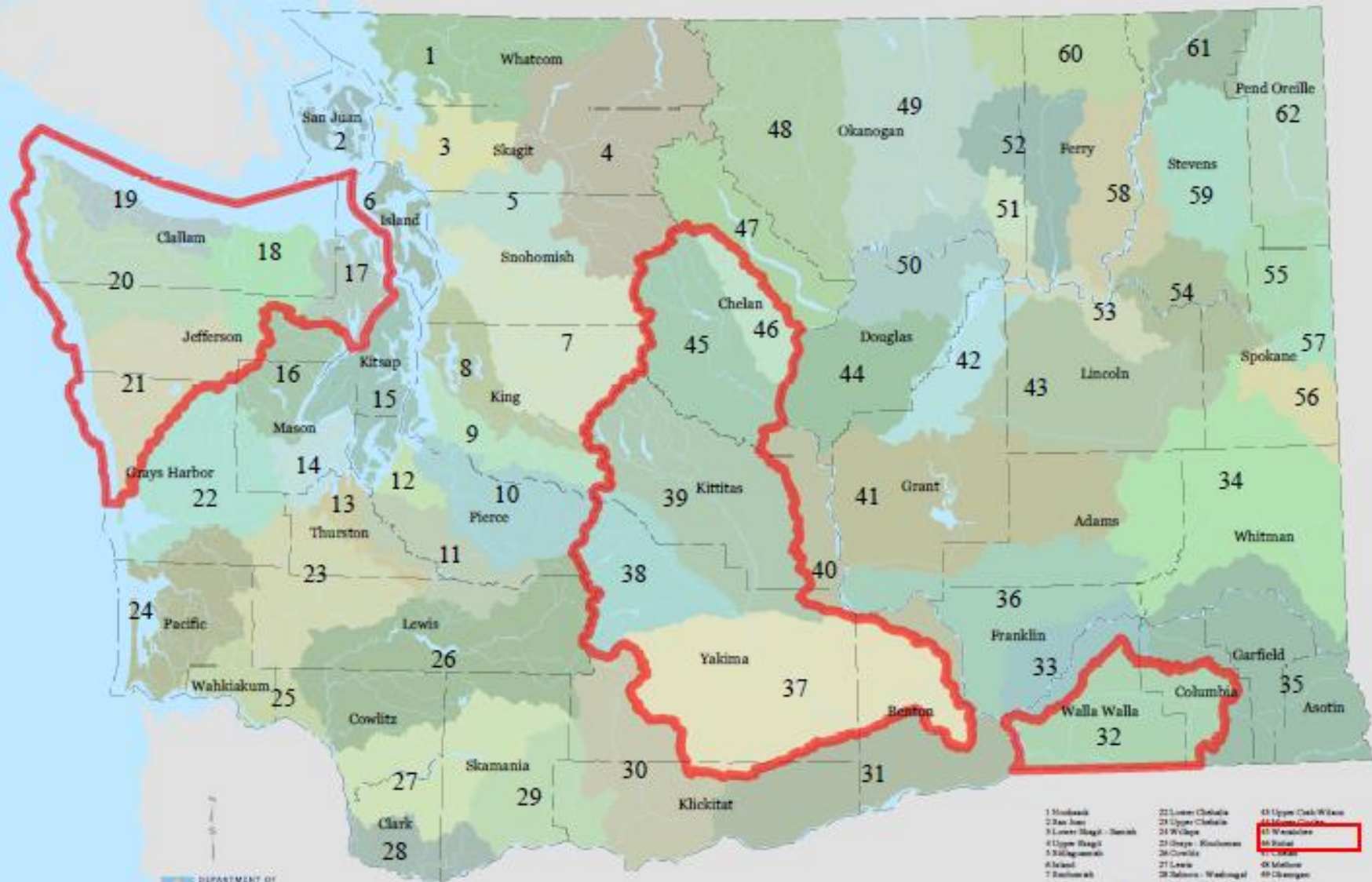
Agriculture

Water purveyors

Fisheries: Habitat and hatcheries

Recreation

Hydropower



WATER RESOURCES INFORMATION MANAGEMENT GIS
JANUARY 2015/01/15/2015

WATER RESOURCES INFORMATION MANAGEMENT GIS
JANUARY 2015/01/15/2015

The Washington State Department of Ecology does not warrant, guarantee, or make any representations regarding the use of, or results from the use of, the data in terms of correctness, accuracy, reliability, completeness, or otherwise.



2015 Drought Declaration Regions

Areas covered by Ecology's announced emergency drought declaration regions March 13, 2015, include:

- 1) The east slope of the Central Cascades including the Yakima basin, Wenatchee and Entiat watersheds.
- 2) The Walla Walla river watershed.
- 3) The Olympic Peninsula, primarily in Jefferson and Clallam counties.

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Whatcom | 21 Lower Chehalis | 41 Upper Clark/Walla |
| 2 San Juan | 22 Upper Chehalis | 42 Middle Chehalis |
| 3 Lower Skagit - Skagit | 23 W. Skagit | 43 Wenatchee |
| 4 Upper Skagit | 24 Skagit - Wenatchee | 44 Entiat |
| 5 Snohomish | 25 Skagit - Wenatchee | 45 Chelan |
| 6 Island | 26 Skagit - Wenatchee | 46 Douglas |
| 7 Jefferson | 27 Skagit - Wenatchee | 47 Grant |
| 8 Kitsap | 28 Skagit - Wenatchee | 48 Kittitas |
| 9 Mason | 29 Skagit - Wenatchee | 49 Yakima |
| 10 Thurston | 30 Skagit - Wenatchee | 50 Benton |
| 11 Pierce | 31 Skagit - Wenatchee | 51 Franklin |
| 12 King | 32 Skagit - Wenatchee | 52 Adams |
| 13 Chelan | 33 Skagit - Wenatchee | 53 Whitman |
| 14 Douglas | 34 Skagit - Wenatchee | 54 Garfield |
| 15 Grant | 35 Skagit - Wenatchee | 55 Asotin |
| 16 Kittitas | 36 Skagit - Wenatchee | 56 Columbia |
| 17 Yakima | 37 Skagit - Wenatchee | 57 Walla Walla |
| 18 Benton | 38 Skagit - Wenatchee | 58 Walla Walla |
| 19 Franklin | 39 Skagit - Wenatchee | 59 Walla Walla |
| 20 Adams | 40 Skagit - Wenatchee | 60 Walla Walla |
| 21 Lower Chehalis | 41 Upper Clark/Walla | 61 Pend Oreille |
| 22 Upper Chehalis | 42 Middle Chehalis | 62 Pend Oreille |
| 23 W. Skagit | 43 Wenatchee | |
| 24 Skagit - Wenatchee | 44 Entiat | |
| 25 Skagit - Wenatchee | 45 Chelan | |
| 26 Skagit - Wenatchee | 46 Douglas | |
| 27 Skagit - Wenatchee | 47 Grant | |
| 28 Skagit - Wenatchee | 48 Kittitas | |
| 29 Skagit - Wenatchee | 49 Yakima | |
| 30 Skagit - Wenatchee | 50 Benton | |
| 31 Skagit - Wenatchee | 51 Franklin | |
| 32 Skagit - Wenatchee | 52 Adams | |
| 33 Skagit - Wenatchee | 53 Whitman | |
| 34 Skagit - Wenatchee | 54 Garfield | |
| 35 Skagit - Wenatchee | 55 Asotin | |
| 36 Skagit - Wenatchee | 56 Columbia | |
| 37 Skagit - Wenatchee | 57 Walla Walla | |
| 38 Skagit - Wenatchee | 58 Walla Walla | |
| 39 Skagit - Wenatchee | 59 Walla Walla | |
| 40 Skagit - Wenatchee | 60 Walla Walla | |
| 41 Upper Clark/Walla | 61 Pend Oreille | |
| 42 Middle Chehalis | 62 Pend Oreille | |

Actions Taken During a Drought

Activate emergency drought permitting

Reach out to major water users in each watershed

Lease water from irrigators who let land go fallow to boost stream flows

Facilitate transfers of water rights from senior users with low-value crops to junior users with high-value crops

Protect senior water rights

Monitoring Conditions and Adapting

Drought Orders may be phased over time

New areas can be added

Parties can petition to have areas added

Orders may be appealed

Drought Order limited to 1 year from time of issuance

Estimated Budget

Seeking appropriation: \$9,000,000

Grants to municipalities (drought wells, interties, infrastructure):
\$2,000,000

Leasing for instream flow protection: up to \$1,000,000 in Yakima
Basin and \$500,000 elsewhere

WDFW request (hatcheries and staffing): \$1,000,000

\$500,000 for compliance staffing, conservation education and
stream flow monitoring

Higher level response in Yakima Basin: \$4,000,000

Thank you!

For more information, please contact:

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Water Resources Program